Introduction

- 1st week= History is His Story we learned that Jesus was God in the beginning of creation in the form of God's spoken word, we also learned that God desires a personal relationship with us and that was his purpose in sending Jesus to the earth to die for our sins
- Last week= He is Living Water, Never Thirst, it was a spring, Well eternal life
- Continue this week with 'He doesn't Condemn'

John 8: 1-11 1 but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2 Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. 3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst 4 they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. 5 Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” 6 This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. 7 And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” 8 And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. 9 But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. 10 Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” 11 She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”

Background

- Put self in the position of each character
  1. Woman
     - Caught in act, v. 4
       - Red handed
       - No defense
       - Stiff Consequences for adultery
     - Where is the man?
     - How does it feel when you get caught
       - Exposed- Naked
       - Shame
       - Scared- Consequences, effects
     - Here she is naked, shamed, afraid
  2. Pharisees
     - Looking to trap Jesus
     - v. 7 And they continued to ask him!?
     - Self-righteous, were pretty proud of themselves
       - Why- knew the character of Jesus and wouldn't sentence anyone to death
       - They had him, excited
       - About to stone a woman, kill her and they were happy and satisfied
     - According to the law they were correct

- Here they are in all their self-righteous glory

3. Jesus
    - Has been teaching in the Temple
    - Knew that the scribes and Pharisees are trying to "get him"
    - Don't think he was surprised
    - Response to Pharisees
        - Writing out sins?
            - I think so
            - What else would have made them drop their stones
            - Wrote, stood up, wrote some more! (v.6-8)
        - “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” in v. 7
            - Wow, what a powerful statement
            - Lot of us have quoted this verse before
                - When?
            - Look closely at this statement
                - Always thought w/o any sin
                - Didn't necessarily without sin, but any major sin
                - probably, according to scholars, major/notorious sin
                - Specifically adultery, prevailing sin of this day, among "respected" members of society
                - What did Jesus say in Matt 5:27-28 27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
                - Jesus was in essence saying you are guilty of the same sin!
        - John 8: 44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
        - Jesus didn't pull any punches!
    - Gifts of the Holy Spirit
    - To the woman, Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”
        - Jesus was the only one w/o sin that could have condemned her
            - Amazing
            - This part always gets me
            - He was the only one "without sin"
            - John 8:15-16 15 You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. 16 Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me
            - He could have condemned her, but chose not to b/c of Love
            - 1 Cor. 13:4-8a 4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it

does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
8 Love never ends.

- Very important
- from now on sin no more
- From Matthew Henry's commentary-"When Christ sent her away, it was with this caution, Go, and sin no more. Those who help to save the life of a criminal, should help to save the soul with the same caution. Those are truly happy, whom Christ does not condemn. Christ's favour to us in the forgiveness of past sins should prevail with us, Go then, and sin no more."
- From near death to a new start!
  - Awesome to have a new start
  - We all have a past
  - Jesus came to save not destroy

- What can we learn from each character in this story
  1. Pharisees
     - Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
     - How can we condemn each other?
     - Willing to Repent
     - Confess our sins to one another
       - James 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.
     - Recognize the fact that we to have a lot of mess and we need to focus on that before we focus on the mess of others
  2. Jesus
     - I always hesitate to put myself in Jesus' shoes or his role
       1. I'm not God
       2. I'm not perfect
     - Jesus is our ultimate example and we should strive to be like him
     - Through the gifts of the Holy Spirit he was able to see into the heart of both the Pharisees and the woman
       - Pharisees= Need of confession/repentance
       - Woman= in the need of saving/rescuing, a defender
       - Through the Holy Spirit we can have the same vision as Christ, 1 Cor. 12:31 But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.
       - Through Love=1 Cor. 14:1 Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.
     - If we love like Jesus and seek the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we too can help to meet the needs of a hurting world!
     - Song= Give me your eyes Brandon Heath
       Give me Your eyes for just one second, Give me Your eyes so I can see

Everything that I keep missing
Give me Your love for humanity
Give me Your arms for the broken-hearted
The ones that are far beyond my reach
Give me Your heart for the ones forgotten
Give me Your eyes so I can see

- Our prayer should be Give me your eyes Jesus

3. Adulterous woman
    - The focus is ALWAYS on Jesus, but I think the most important character in this story is the woman
    - What a wonderful Testimony
        - Our next Series Our Story- Theme verse Revelation 12:11 And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.
    - She was caught redhanded committing an act whose consequence was death
    - Through the forgiveness of Jesus she received a new start
    - There is someone here today who needs a new start
        - Maybe your story isn't as dramatic
        - You are in a place where you need to get a fresh beginning
    - In Jesus there is always a fresh start, a new beginning

Closing

- My heart breaks for the characters in this story
    1. Jesus- knowing what the world and each individual needs and desiring for them to see it and come to him
    2. Pharisees- needing to confess and ask forgiveness for a new start/ fulfilled life
    3. Adulterous woman- on the brink of death, in need of a savior
- Question for you this morning, "Who are you"?
    - Pharisee=In need of confession and forgiveness?
    - Woman= In need of a new start?
    - Jesus= Have his eyes, care for the broken world